

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SEC-01 SCA-01 JUSE-00 EB-07 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6801

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 929

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN CFED BF

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF VESCO RETURN TO BAHAMAS

1. IN A CASUAL CONVERSATION OF LAST WEEK WITH MR. RALPH SELIGMAN, LOCAL ATTORNEY WHO AMONG OTHER THINGS IS REPRESENTING CLIENTS SUING VESCO, HE ASSURED ME THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT VESCO WOULD BE RETURNING TO THE BAHAMAS.

2. AT A LUNCHEON JUNE 9 HELD BY THE HONARARY CONSULS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER ADDERLEY, SELIGMAN (WHO IS HONORARY ISRAELI CONSU) DREW ME ASIDE TO STATE THAT THE ASSURANCES WHICH HE HAD GIVEN ME LAST WEEK NO LONGER HELD. TO THE CONTRARY, HE SAID THAT HE HAD RECENT INFORMATION INDICATING THAT VESCO WAS QUITE LIKELY TO RETURN TO THE BAHAMAS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE WOULD DO SO IN ORDER TO REASSERT OWNERSHIP OF CHARLOTTE HOUSE. THIS LATTER IS A MODERN OFFICE BUILDING CONSTRUCTED IN THE HEART OF NASSAU BY VESCO PURPORTEDLY AT A COST OF OVER \$10 MILLION. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN ATTACHED AS A PART OF THE ASSETS OWNED BY VESCO WHICH ARE NOW IN LIQUIDATION HERE. SELIGMAN MENTIONED THAT VESCO HAD CONSTRUCTED A VERY ELABORATE PENTHOUSE IN CHARLOTTE HOUSE FOR HIS OWN USE WHICH HE APPARENTLY HAD NEVER OCCUPIED.

3. SELIGMAN DID NOT VOLUNTEER ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE SOURCE OR NATURE OF HIS INFORMATION BUT SEEMED VERY POSITIVE
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OF ITS VALIDITY. I ASKED HIM TO PLEASE KEEP ME CURRENTLY IN-

FORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND HE PROMISED TO DO SO.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOT ALWAYS FOUND SELIGMAN TO BE AN ENTIRELY RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION. WHILE HE HAS NOTHING TO GAIN IN MISLEADING US, HIS INFORMATION COULD SIMPLY BE IN ERROR. WE INTEND TO MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY.
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